

Appln No. 10/049,223
Amdt date July 21, 2003
Reply to Office action of March 20, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 15-17 remain in the application. Claim 14 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 13 and 16 were amended to provide antecedent basis, as requested by the Examiner. Claim 1 was also amended to include a limitation of claim 14. In claim 3, Applicant added the words "any of" to put the claim in proper multiple dependent form. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be carefully reviewed by the Examiner and entered without objection.

Examiner's Rejection of Claims 1-17 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph.

On page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-17 are rejected as being indefinite. Claims 1, 6, and 16 have been amended to express the proper antecedent basis for the respective elements. Claim 1 was amended to make clear that the "vehicle door" in lines 1 and 3 are the same. Claim 6 was amended to show that the "door lock" is the same in lines 5 and 6, the "door outside handle" is the same in lines 7 and 8, and the "door inside handle" is the same in lines 9 and 10. Claim 16 was amended to show that the "door inside panel" is the same in lines 2-3 as and lines 4-5.

Claim 13 was amended to explicitly include the limitations of claims 3-5 and to depend only on claim 2, in order to provide a proper antecedent basis for "functional element." The Examiner correctly pointed out on page 2 of the Office action that Claim 15 incorrectly showed an underlined "a" on page 3 of the Supplemental Amendment filed on June 11, 2002. A correct

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clean copy of the claim is shown above. The amendments were made to the above claims to place them in proper form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection to claims 1-17.

Examiner's Rejection of Claims 1-17 As Anticipated By Morando (U.S. Pat. No. 5,548,930).

On pages 2-3 of the Office action, claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Morando. The Examiner states that "all of the elements of the instant invention are disclosed in detail in Figure 1" of Morando, which "discloses a molded plastic module having a pair of guide rails, a window lifter, locks, a handle, and a double strand cable window lifter." Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites:

1. A system to be fitted into a vehicle door comprising:

- a window lifter for lifting and lowering a window pane of said vehicle door including a drive unit, a transfer mechanism for transferring drive force from the drive unit to the window pane, and a guide rail of the transfer mechanism along which a follower of the window pane is guided, and
- a closing mechanism for closing and opening the vehicle door,

wherein the window lifter and the closing mechanism are configured for fixing on a supporting plate of the vehicle door,

wherein at least one **supporting part of the closing mechanism is moulded on the guide rail, the guide rail consisting at least in part of plastics,** and

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wherein the **guide rail** of the window lifter is formed for **displaceable bearing on the supporting plate**.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not pointed out and the Applicant cannot determine where it is taught in the cited reference that: 1) at least one supporting part of the closing mechanism is moulded on the guide rail; 2) "the guide rail...is formed for displaceable bearing on the supporting plate;" or 3) "the guide rail consisting at least in part of plastics."

The Examiner has not specified which elements of the cited reference he contends correspond to the elements of Applicant's claims, so Applicant will assume for the purposes of this Response that the Examiner contends that one or more of the "housing 140" or "surface 13" corresponds to "at least one supporting part of the closing mechanism" of Applicant's claim, and that the "window pane guide element 11" corresponds to the "guide rail" of Applicant's claim. Applicant will also assume that the Examiner contends that the "mounting plate 1" (a moulded plastic element forming a main girder 15 with the window pane guide element 11 at one end) corresponds to the "supporting plate" of Applicant's claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Figure 1 nor the detailed description in Morando, col. 3 line 65-col. 6 line 5, teaches or suggests that the housing 140 or the surface 13 is moulded to the window pane guide element 11. Morando teaches that the housing 140 for the handle 40 is part of the protuberance formed on the girder 15, and the perpendicular

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surface 13 is shown as formed on the girder 15. Morando, col. 5, lines 4-8 and Figure 1. Morando does not teach that either the housing 140 or the perpendicular surface 13 is moulded to the window pane guide, but that the window pane guide "is connected to the plane of this girder (15) by a joint (116)." Morando, col. 4, lines 15-21. Further, if the Examiner contends that the window pane guide is actually moulded to the housing 140 or the perpendicular surface through both the joint 116 and the girder 15, Applicant respectfully submits that the window pane guide 11 of Morando is not "formed for displaceable bearing on" mounting plate 1.

Morando, col. 4, lines 15-21, teaches that the window pane guide is connected to the girder, which is a "moulded plastic element," by a joint 116, but the Examiner has not pointed out and the Applicant cannot find any teaching or suggestion in the cited reference that this connection is "formed for displaceable bearing." Likewise, the Examiner has not pointed out and the Applicant cannot find any teaching or suggestion in Morando of what material the window pane guide 11 consists of, let alone that it is "consisting at least in part of plastics," according to Applicant's claim 1.

Because Morando does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and dependent claims 2-13 and 15-17 are patentable over Morando, and requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition

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for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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